

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action of September 27, 2005 in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 9-11 as allegedly anticipated by Dal Ferro WO 02/096782. Claims 1, 7 and 8 are rejected as allegedly anticipated by Brink U.S. Patent No. 6,179,114.

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected as unpatentable over Dal Ferro in view of Brink.

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the applicants' prior response incorrectly notes that Dal Ferro does not employ a groove formed in the doctor blade. The Examiner is correct. Applicants meant to state that Dal Ferro does not employ a groove formed in the blade holder.

Applicants note that the arguments in the prior action focus on the groove formed in the blade holder, and the statement referred to by the Examiner is a clerical error wherein the terms were inadvertently transposed.

The Examiner's rejection of the claims is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth below.

Dal Ferro shows a doctor assembly for scraping the surface of a belt. Dal Ferro employs a blade holder with a notch or rabbet into which the doctor blade is secured. However a rabbet is not as robust as a groove or channel.

The present invention employs a groove formed in the blade holder for receiving the doctor blade therein. The arrangement results in a stronger and more reliable arrangement which more securely supports the blade. The present invention is designed to avoid undesirable breakaway of the blade from the blade holder which is enhanced by the grooved blade holder of the present invention.

Brink U.S. Patent No. 6,179,114 provides a blade frame having a slot with holding screws to fix the blade thereon. However, the blade frame in Brink is simply mounted for rotation. The frame is not adjustable; the blade holder is not adjustably mounted; it is not formed with a groove for receiving the doctor blade; and the blade is not welded in the groove. The frame and blade holder are integrated, neither of which are adjustable.

One of skill in the art would not employ the frame arrangement of Brink to support the doctor blade in Dal Ferro, because the frame in Brink is the main operating element. There is a difference between using a heavy part, which is placed in high stress as the frame is in Brink and using a disposable part such as the blade holder in the invention. In other words, the robust slotted frame in Brink would not be practical for the grooved blade holder in Dal Ferro. In the invention, the frame is not heavy and rigid, and it is not formed with a groove. The fixed support in the invention is formed with an adjustable connection for supporting the frame which is also adjustable. This in turn adjustably supports the blade holder, which in turn has a groove for securing the doctor blade therein with bidirectional support along the belt axis. This coupled with a welded seam insures a robust arrangement for which is relatively light weight.

As a practical matter, the blade holder in the invention is disposable, whereas in Brink the frame which holds the blade is not disposable. Also, it would be difficult to remove the blade in Brink if it were welded to the frame, because it would be necessary to disassemble the frame from the machine in order to remove the blade. In the invention, the blade holder and blade are easily removed as a unit and may be replaced without difficulty.

It is therefore believed that the arrangements of Dal Ferro and Brink are not suggestive of the claimed invention either alone or in combination.

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully requested the Examiner reconsider his rejections of the claims, the allowance of which is earnestly solicited.

If additional fees are required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 04-2223 or credit any overpayment thereto.

Respectfully submitted,

DYKEMA GOSSETT PLLC

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John P. Daluca', is written over a horizontal line.

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